REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-34 are pending in this application, of which claims 19-34 are pending in this application, of which claims 19, 23, 26, and 31 are independent. By way of this amendment, claims 19, 22-24, 26, 29, 31, and 32 are amended.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In section 5 on page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 19-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,323,149 to Hoult et al. (hereinafter "Hoult"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

1. *Claims 19-22 and 26-30*

Independent claim 19 recites:

A receiving method for contactless reception of identification from a
    data carrier through information units by a communication
    device, the method comprising:
    receiving   a   received   information   unit,   wherein   said
        communication device uses said received information unit
        as a first information unit originating from a first data
        carrier;
    detecting a collision when said communication device receives at
        least two different information units with different values
        essentially simultaneously, wherein the first information
        unit originates from the first data carrier and a second
        information unit originates from a second data carrier;
    using, as said first information unit originating from the first
        data carrier, a first replacement information unit
        established by the communication device instead of said
        received information unit only when the collision is
        detected; and

<u>delivering said first replacement information unit</u> to at least the first data carrier and the second data carrier in a contactless manner <u>only when the collision is detected</u>, wherein said first replacement information unit halts only the second data carrier from continuing delivery of an information unit immediately following the previously delivered second information unit (emphasis added).

Independent claim 26 contains similar recitations. As described in the specification in, for example, paragraphs [0065]-[0067] and [0071]-[0072], this subject matter relates to a method of receiving multiple identification tags from separate data carriers.

Using this method, a receiver can receive and sort multiple identification tags, with each source only delivering their respective IDs once. The receiver stores common received information units (IUs), halting only the second source's delivery when the respective received IUs are of different values. *See* ¶¶ [0072]-[0075]. <u>Only when the receiver receives different values</u> (a collision) does the receiver send a replacement information unit to choose which data carrier will continue to transmit its ID and which data carrier (or carriers) will halt transmission.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hoult fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, "delivering said first replacement information unit to at least the first data carrier and the second data carrier in a contactless manner <u>only when the collision is detected</u>," as recited in claim 19 and similarly recited in claim 26. Hoult discloses an infrared communications system where slave units transmit identification to a master unit. However, the master unit in Hoult <u>always echoes</u> the value of at least

one of the ID bits received from the slaves. *See, e.g., Fig. 3, Column 3, Lines 63-66.* This is true even when only one slave is transmitting information, as illustrated in Fig. 3, where the Master M still echoes back every transmitted bit received by Slave B.

This contrasts greatly with the recited subject matter, where the receiver transmits a replacement bit only after a collision is detected. As an example, if there were 10 data carriers, each with 100 bits of information for an ID, collisions occur approximately every 10th bit on average. While the receiver of the recited subject matter only transmits to the data carriers 10 times in this exemplary scenario, the receiver of Hoult would transmit 100 times. This, in this example, use of the method and device recited in claims 19 and 26 would reduce communications time from the receiver to the data carrier by 90%.

Hoult therefore fails to disclose each and every limitation of claims 19 and 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 20-22 depend on claim 19 and claims 27-30 depend on claim 26, respectively, and are allowable at least based upon these dependencies. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-22 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

2. *Claims 23-25 and 31-34*

Independent claim 23 recites:

> A delivering method from a data carrier to a communication device for contactless delivery of identification information of a data carrier through information units, said method comprising:
> delivering an information unit;
> checking for reception at said data carrier of a first replacement unit after said delivery of the information unit;
> continuing delivery of a further information unit, wherein the data carrier delivers an information unit immediately following the information unit previously delivered when the data carrier does not receive said first replacement information unit; and
> halting the delivery of information units when the data carrier delivers all of said identification information.

Independent claim 31 contains similar recitations. As described in the specification in, for example, paragraphs [0073]-[0075] and [0077]-[0078], the method relates to a data carrier sending portions of an ID to a receiver.

The data carrier sends a portion of the ID in the form of an information unit IU. *See* ¶ [0068]. If the carrier does not receive a replacement information unit, then the carrier sends the subsequent IU. *See* ¶¶ [0068] and [0070]. If, however, it receives a replacement information unit that is not equal to the value of the sent IU, this signals the data carrier to halt delivery of a subsequent IU. *See* ¶ [0075]. The data carrier will then halt its delivery until it receives a continue command from the communication device to start again. *See* ¶ [0078]. Accordingly, the carrier only needs to send its ID in its entirety once, even if its delivery halts due to a collision.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hoult fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, "continuing delivery of a further information unit, wherein the data carrier delivers an information unit immediately following the information unit previously delivered when the data carrier does not receive said first replacement information unit," as recited in claim 23 and similarly recited in claim 31.
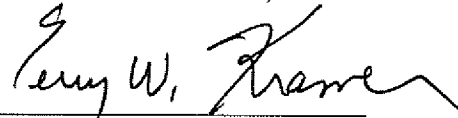
As discussed above in relation to claims 19 and 26, the receiver in Hoult always transmits a data bit back to the slaves. Hoult, therefore, does not disclose a data carrier continuing to send information if it does not receive a replacement unit, as the data carrier always receives a bit from the receiver due to the echo. In contrast, the recited subject matter decreases communication time between the receiver and the data carrier, as the receiver remains silent until a collision between two data carrier IDs occurs.

Hoult therefore fails to disclose all the limitations of claims 23 and 31. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 23 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 24-25 depend on claim 23 and claims 31-34 depend on claim 34 respectively and are allowable at least based upon these dependencies. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 24-25 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the attorney overseeing the application file, Juergen Krause-Polstorff, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9062.

Respectfully submitted,
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